



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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September 30, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
Filed via ECFS

Universal Service Administrative Company
Vice President, High Cost Division
700 12th Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Filed via email (hccerts@usac.org)

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 14-58, Annual State Certification of Support for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("MDTC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") that the eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs") named below are eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the program years cited.

The MDTC certifies that for the carriers listed all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within Massachusetts was used in the preceding calendar year (**2015**) and will be used in the coming calendar year (**2017**) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.¹

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) ("Certification. States that desire eligible telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. High-cost support shall only be provided to the extent that the State has filed the requisite certification pursuant to this section.").

Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110037)
X5 RTC, LLC d/b/a Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110737)²
Granby Telephone Company d/b/a OTT Communications (study area code 110036)
Taconic Telephone Corp. d/b/a FairPoint Communications (study area code 150084)³
Verizon Massachusetts (study area code 115112)

The MDTC bases its certification on these ETCs' FCC Form 481 filings and supplements, as applicable, provided to the MDTC upon request, together with the ETCs' sworn affidavits.⁴ The MDTC attaches copies of the ETCs' supplemental filing cover letters and affidavits, as well as a copy of its annual Form 481 filing Notice to ETCs, for reference.

Should the FCC or USAC require any additional information concerning this matter, please contact me at (617) 368-1141 or Kerri.DeYoung@state.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kerri DeYoung Phillips
Kerri DeYoung Phillips
Counsel, Competition Division

Attachments

cc: Trina Bragdon, Granby Telephone/OTT (*by email*)
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Barbara Meyer, Richmond Telephone (*by email*)
Beth Westman, Taconic Telephone/FairPoint (*by email*)
Alexander Moore, Verizon (*by email*)
Christopher Bean, Verizon (*by email*)

² On February 4, 2016, the MDTC approved an asset transfer of Richmond Telephone Company from Cornerstone Telephone Company, LLC, to X5 RTC LLC. The X5 entity obtained a new study area code ("SAC") for the Richmond study area in place of the SAC assigned to the Cornerstone entity after completion of this transaction.

³ Taconic's study area is based in New York but extends into Massachusetts.

⁴ See, e.g., *In re: Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Order, DA 13-1348 (rel. Jun. 10, 2013), at 6 (anticipating states' reliance on ETCs' FCC Form 481 filings as a basis for states' certifications). See also MDTC Notice to All Massachusetts ETCs Receiving Federal USF High-Cost or Low-Income Support (May 23, 2016).